

Amendments to the Claims

1. (previously presented) A mobility aiding device adjustable between a use and a storage position comprising:

a first frame member having a pair of ground engaging means at a lower end thereof for engaging ground thereunder;

a second frame member having a pair of ground engaging means at a lower end thereof for engaging the ground;

a first support pivotally connected to the first frame member;

a second support pivotally connected to the second frame member and pivotally connected to the first support, the first and second supports for supporting a weight above the ground in the use position;

hinge means pivotally connecting a top of the first support to a top of the second support enabling the first and second supports to pivot towards each other into the storage position; and

tension rod means extending between a bottom of the first support and a bottom of the second support for distributing the weight between the first and second supports, said tension rod means being adjustable between an extended position in which said tension rod structurally interconnects said first and second supports, when the device is in the use position, and a released position enabling the device to be adjusted to the storage position.

2. (original) The device according to claim 1, further comprising strut means for transferring the weight from the hinge means to the tension rod means.

3. (previously presented) A mobility aiding device adjustable between a use and a storage position comprising:

a first frame member having a pair of ground engaging means at a lower end thereof for engaging ground thereunder;

a second frame member having a pair of ground engaging means at a lower end thereof for engaging the ground;

a first support pivotally connected to the first frame member;
a second support pivotally connected to the second frame member and pivotally connected to the first support, the first and second supports for supporting a weight above the ground in the use position;
hinge means pivotally connecting the first support to the second support enabling the first and second supports to pivot towards each other into the storage position;
tension rod means for distributing the weight between the first and second supports, said tension rod means being adjustable between an extended position in which said tension rod structurally interconnects said first and second supports, when the device is in the use position, and a released position enabling the device to be adjusted to the storage position;
a first cross brace extending between the first support and the second frame member for transferring at least a portion of the weight to the second frame member; and
a second cross brace extending between the second support and the first frame member for transferring at least a portion of the weight to the first frame member.

4. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, further comprising locking means for maintaining the tension rod means in the extended position.

5. (original) The device according to claim 4, wherein the locking means comprises a spring clip biasing the tension rod means in the extended position.

6. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, further comprising a handle extending through said first support for pivoting said tension rod means into the release position and said first and second supports into the storage position.

7. (original) The device according to claim 6, wherein said tension rod means includes: a first link pivotally connected to said first support, and a second link pivotally connected to said second support and said first link.

8. (original) The device according to claim 7, wherein said handle extends from said first link through said first support, back through said second support to said second link, whereby pulling on said handle pivots said first and second links and said first and second supports towards each other into the storage position.

9. (previously presented) A mobility aiding device adjustable between a use and a storage position comprising:

a first frame member having a pair of ground engaging means at a lower end thereof for engaging ground thereunder;

a second frame member having a pair of ground engaging means at a lower end thereof for engaging the ground;

a first support pivotally connected to the first frame member;

a second support pivotally connected to the second frame member and pivotally connected to the first support, the first and second supports for supporting a weight above the ground in the use position;

hinge means pivotally connecting the first support to the second support enabling the first and second supports to pivot towards each other into the storage position;

tension rod means for distributing the weight between the first and second supports, said tension rod means being adjustable between an extended position in which said tension rod structurally interconnects said first and second supports, when the device is in the use position, and a released position enabling the device to be adjusted to the storage position; and

a locking feature for maintaining the tension rod means in the extended position wherein said locking feature comprises a spring clip biasing the tension rod in the extended position.

10. Canceled

11. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said tension rod means includes: a first link pivotally connected to said first support, and a second link pivotally connected to said second support and said first link.

12. (previously presented) A mobility aiding device adjustable between a use and a storage position comprising:

- a first frame member having a pair of ground engaging means at a lower end thereof for engaging ground thereunder;
- a second frame member having a pair of ground engaging means at a lower end thereof for engaging the ground;
- a first support pivotally connected to the first frame member;
- a second support pivotally connected to the second frame member and pivotally connected to the first support, the first and second supports for supporting a weight above the ground in the use position;
- hinge means pivotally connecting the first support to the second support enabling the first and second supports to pivot towards each other into the storage position;
- tension rod means for distributing the weight between the first and second supports, said tension rod means being adjustable between an extended position in which said tension rod structurally interconnects said first and second supports, when the device is in the use position, and a released position enabling the device to be adjusted to the storage position; and
- a handle extending through said first support for pivoting said tension rod into the release position, and for pivoting said first and second supports into the storage position.

13. (original) The device according to claim 12, wherein said tension rod means includes:

- a first link pivotally connected to said first support, and a second link pivotally connected to said second support and said first link.

14. (original) The device according to claim 13, wherein said handle extends from said first link through said first support, back through said second support to said second link, whereby pulling on said handle pivots said first and second links towards each other and said first and second supports towards each other into the storage position.

15. (currently amended) A mobility aiding device adjustable between a use and a storage position comprising:

a first frame member having a pair of ground engaging means at a lower end thereof;

a second frame member having a pair of ground engaging means at a lower end thereof;

a first support pivotally connected to the first frame member;

a second support pivotally connected to the second frame member and pivotally connected to the first support, the first and second supports for supporting a weight above the ground in the use position;

first hinge means pivotally connecting upper portions of the first and second supports enabling the first and second supports to pivot towards each other into the storage position, while preventing any pinching action of the first and second supports during entry into the use position;

first and second link means pivotally connected to lower portions of the first and second supports, respectively, for distributing the weight to the first and second frame members, while in the use position; ~~and~~

second hinge means pivotally connecting the first and second link means, the second hinge means disposed parallel to the first hinge means, enabling the first and second link means to pivot towards each other into the storage position; and

a first strut for transferring a portion of the weight from the first hinge means to the first link means, and a second strut for transferring a portion of the weight from the second hinge means to the second link means.

16. (Canceled)

17. (currently amended) A mobility aiding device adjustable between a use and a storage position comprising:

a first frame member having a pair of ground engaging means at a lower end thereof;

a second frame member having a pair of ground engaging means at a lower end thereof;

a first support pivotally connected to the first frame member;

a second support pivotally connected to the second frame member and pivotally connected to the first support, the first and second supports for supporting a weight above the ground in the use position;

first hinge means pivotally connecting upper portions of the first and second supports enabling the first and second supports to pivot towards each other into the storage position, while preventing any pinching action of the first and second supports during entry into the use position;

first and second link means pivotally connected to lower portions of the first and second supports, respectively, for distributing the weight to the first and second frame members, while in the use position;

second hinge means pivotally connecting the first and second link means, the second hinge means disposed parallel to the first hinge means, enabling the first and second link means to pivot towards each other into the storage position; and ~~The device according to claim 15, further comprising~~

a handle means extending through said first support for pivoting said first and second supports into the storage position.

18. (original) The device according to claim 17, wherein said handle extends from said first link, said first support, back through said second support to said second solid link, whereby pulling on said handle pivots said first and second links towards each other and said first and second supports towards each other into the storage position.

19. (currently amended) A mobility aiding device adjustable between a use and a storage position comprising:

a first frame member having a pair of ground engaging means at a lower end thereof;

a second frame member having a pair of ground engaging means at a lower end thereof;

a first support pivotally connected to the first frame member;

a second support pivotally connected to the second frame member and pivotally connected to the first support, the first and second supports for supporting a weight above the ground in the use position;

first hinge means pivotally connecting upper portions of the first and second supports enabling the first and second supports to pivot towards each other into the storage position, while preventing any pinching action of the first and second supports during entry into the use position;

first and second link means pivotally connected to lower portions of the first and second supports, respectively, for distributing the weight to the first and second frame members, while in the use position;

second hinge means pivotally connecting the first and second link means, the second hinge means disposed parallel to the first hinge means, enabling the first and second link means to pivot towards each other into the storage position; and The device according to claim 15, further comprising

locking means for maintaining the first and second links in the extended position.

20. (currently amended) A mobility aiding device adjustable between a use and a storage position comprising:

a first frame member having a pair of ground engaging means at a lower end thereof;

a second frame member having a pair of ground engaging means at a lower end thereof;

a first support pivotally connected to the first frame member;

a second support pivotally connected to the second frame member and pivotally connected to the first support, the first and second supports for supporting a weight above the ground in the use position;

first hinge means pivotally connecting upper portions of the first and second supports enabling the first and second supports to pivot towards each other into the storage position, while preventing any pinching action of the first and second supports during entry into the use position;

first and second link means pivotally connected to lower portions of the first and second supports, respectively, for distributing the weight to the first and second frame members, while in the use position;

second hinge means pivotally connecting the first and second link means, the second hinge means disposed parallel to the first hinge means, enabling the first and second link

means to pivot towards each other into the storage position; and ~~The device according to claim 15, further comprising~~

a first cross brace extending between the first support and the second frame member for transferring at least a portion of the weight to the second frame member; and a second cross brace extending between the second support and the first frame member for transferring at least a portion of the weight to the first frame member.

21 (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, further comprising a first cross brace extending between the first support and the second frame member for transferring at least a portion of the weight to the second frame member; and a second cross brace extending between the second support and the first frame member for transferring at least a portion of the weight to the first frame member.